United Nations A/C.2/57/SR.19

General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session

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## Second Committee

**Summary record of the 19th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 28 October 2002, at 3 p.m.

*Chairman*: Mr. Suazo ..... (Honduras)

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Agenda item 88: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

Agenda item 43: Follow-up to the outcomes of the special session on children (*continued*)

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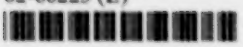
02-66223 (E)



*The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.*

**Agenda item 88: Operational activities for development** (*continued*) (A/57/3, Supplement No. 3 (Part II), A/57/125, A/57/155, A/57/332, A/57/444, A/C.2/57/3)

**Agenda item 43: Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children** (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Belkas** (Algeria) shared the view that operational activities for development should be adapted to meet the challenges of globalization. The African continent had adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as a collective mechanism which required the assistance of the international community and, in particular, of United Nations funds and programmes.

2. His delegation was pleased that expenditure on development cooperation by the United Nations system had grown between 2000 and 2001 to $7.1 billion, or by 17 per cent. However, that amount was still not enough to optimize the impact of multilateral, impartial and universal operational activities. To that end, the core resources of the funds and programmes should be augmented on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, and non-core funding should complement regular resources.

3. Algeria shared the concern expressed by the Secretary-General on reform of operational activities undertaken since 1997. Reforms must be pursued rigorously and realistically, ensuring the mobilization of adequate financial resources to allow the funds and programmes to finance their activities and to accomplish their missions. Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development and to the Plan of Implementation, adopted at Johannesburg, could offer new perspectives for the mobilization of resources in the broader context of strengthening United Nations operational activities for development. The potential contribution of those activities to developing countries was indisputable. Greater mobilization of all partners was necessary in order to ensure the realization of objectives while ensuring adequate and reliable funding.

4. **Mr. Nadai** (Israel) said that his delegation had taken note of the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women contained in document A/57/125, and the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (A/57/184) on implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/187.

5. With specific reference to gender, he described his Government's action to address the particular concerns of women in poverty and their access to power, influence and material resources. The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC), established in 1961, specialized in gender issues and women in development. Although it had maintained its original emphasis on human resource development, the Center had expanded its activities to include programmes on income generation and entrepreneurship, community development, early childhood education, and leadership skills for women. The Center's integrated approach to training had resulted in effective new approaches and techniques in development programmes abroad. It had also promoted the concepts of gender equality and full participation in the development process as a prerequisite for economic growth. As agreed in Agenda 21, poverty eradication was the greatest global challenge facing the world. The role of the State of Israel, through MCTC, in tackling gender issues, enhancing the contribution of women to development, and involving the grassroots population in the decision-making process had been a pertinent and vital part of that struggle.

6. **Ms. Lachance** (Canada), with reference to the recommendations of the Secretary-General on pledging mechanisms, said that Canada was strongly committed to supporting United Nations operational activities for development.

7. Canada shared the view that the existing annual United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities had not been effective. On the other hand, the multi-year funding frameworks (MYFFs) had successfully attracted a large number of donors, many of whom had increased their contributions, and improved the predictability of resources available.

8. Canada welcomed the suggestion that a series of separate pledging sessions should be held sequentially under the MYFFs, or their equivalent, in a single time frame, and that those events should be held in the context of a joint meeting of the Executive Boards of United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Fund for Population Activities and United Nations Children's Fund, with the participation of the World Food Programme.

9. The pledging event should continue to be an integral part of the MYFF process and of the dialogue on programmatic results. A well-structured joint meeting of the Executive Boards, with a substantive agenda and pledging session, would be able to attract high-level participation. Moreover, with respect to the suggestions on high-level events on international development cooperation, a selective ad hoc approach to such meetings would lead to higher political and public visibility than a more rigid institutional approach.

10. **Mr. Huang** Xuegi (China) said that the steady decline in core resources had crippled the ability of funds and programmes to effectively assist development efforts and, in that regard, urged donor countries to increase official development assistance (ODA), particularly with respect to the least developed countries. Furthermore, his delegation believed that, in considering alternatives to the annual Pledging Conference, the root cause of reduced funding should be examined.

11. China attached great importance to South-South cooperation, both at the bilateral level and through active multilateral cooperation, and welcomed the various arrangements which promoted the participation of developing countries in the global economy.

12. **Mr. Adhikari** (Nepal) said that Nepal concurred with the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary-General in document A/57/155, regarding the promotion and facilitation of South-South cooperation. The rationale for enhanced cooperation among developing countries had remained strong, but globalization had made that imperative more urgent.

13. Although the United Nations had been instrumental in creating improvements, there was need for sustained efforts to provide technical and other assistance in order to ensure tangible benefits for developing countries. Apart from capacity-building, the least developed countries must have free access to global markets. In that regard, Nepal urged the international community to do its utmost to implement the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

14. Landlocked developing countries faced the unique problems of geographical remoteness and costly development. Nepal therefore welcomed United Nations support for the preparatory process for the International Ministerial Meeting on Transit Transport Cooperation to be held in Kazakhstan in 2003 and other international events, and looked forward to urgent action to bridge the digital divide and the gap between developing countries themselves. Nepal wished to call for further support for the implementation of the outcome of those meetings.

15. **Mr. Mizukami** (Japan) welcomed the report presenting alternative options to the current annual Pledging Conferences. However, Japan did not favour the option of holding high-level events under the aegis of either the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council, because of the additional physical and logistical costs involved. Since pledges were usually made after much discussion, their announcement would entail the creation of a system for the reporting of pledges. If, on the other hand, pledges were to be meaningful and accompanied by dialogue, they should be made during the proceedings of each governing mechanism.

16. As the largest donor of ODA, Japan remained committed to its pledging obligations and sought to maintain a relationship of trust with its partners. Consequently, all pledges were confirmed in advance by relevant budgetary offices within the Government. In the belief that a stable and predictable level of financial resources was crucial to the effective implementation of operational activities, Japan was pleased to note the current trend indicating an expansion of the donor community.

17. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on measures to promote and facilitate South-South cooperation (A/57/155), he recalled that for decades Japan had significantly increased such cooperation activities through bilateral and multilateral assistance. Despite the progress made, the United Nations could further promote such cooperation, which represented one of the most promising modalities for coping with difficulties facing many countries.

18. In terms of gender mainstreaming, Japan welcomed the contribution of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). For its part, the Government of Japan had provided approximately $3 million in assistance through the Trust Fund for Human Security to UNIFEM regional projects on HIV/AIDS, and had recently taken a decision to support the establishment of community centres in Afghanistan. Japan hoped to strengthen cooperation in

policy formulation aimed at assisting women in development.

19. He briefly described his Government's level of participation in development activities, through bilateral and multilateral projects, showing that Japan ranked among the top donors in various categories of assistance.

20. Accountability and effectiveness of operational activities should be enhanced to meet the needs of those persons who were truly in distress. United Nations organizations were expected to implement projects in the field, rather than expend their energies on organizing events that did not yield firm improvement in well-being.

21. Japan supported results-based management and all United Nations efforts to achieve the Millennium development goals through operational activities.

22. **Mr. Djumala** (Indonesia) said that the process of implementing the Millennium development goals, the Monterrey Consensus and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development required both human and financial resources. Indonesia reaffirmed its support for the continued efforts of the United Nations system to ensure that core resources for operational activities for development were made available on a predictable, continuous and assured basis. Future pledging events should at least ensure political visibility and programme accountability, and an alternative model for pledging should be sought that would reflect the positive aspects of the current mechanism and those of the multi-year funding framework. There was merit in including a pledging event in the agenda of the reconstituted high-level dialogue, but it was important not to overload or dilute that agenda. Other options should be explored, such as incorporating the pledging exercise in a broader-level dialogue, addressing United Nations priorities, including the Millennium development goals and integrated follow-up to the outcomes of major conferences and summits, which could be held in alternate years.

23. As for measures to promote and facilitate South-South cooperation, there had been many achievements over the years, but implementation had been sluggish and far short of expectations. There was a lack of widespread understanding of such cooperation's real potential, of strong institutions to support its programmes and projects, of a South-South flow of information and of adequate human and financial resources. The relevance of South-South cooperation was becoming more urgent in a rapidly interdependent world; at the operational level, the ad hoc approaches employed by various partners, including the United Nations, should be replaced by a new concentration of resources on well-coordinated programmes. The challenge was to initiate programmes and projects which aligned the agenda for South-South cooperation with the Millennium development goals, and to improve the funding base for South-South cooperation by including the Voluntary Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation in the United Nations Pledging Conference.

24. **Mr. Ngo Duc Thang** (Viet Nam) said that South-South cooperation had reached only a modest level and lacked an institutional mandate as well as financial resources. Its potential had not yet been mobilized, and the support of the international community was still weak and inadequate. The work of the UNDP Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries should be strengthened and fully integrated into United Nations operational activities for development. The United Nations, UNDP, WTO and other specialized agencies should make greater efforts to find appropriate and effective ways and means of assisting the development activities of the South both technically and financially, as well as the efforts of the countries of the South to cooperate with one another. Viet Nam's involvement in South-South cooperation had led to the creation of a tripartite model consisting of two parties from the South and one from donors or international organizations. It had also led to the initiative to develop poor and less-developed inter-State areas in the Mekong subregion, which had been adopted by other ASEAN countries. Such models could be useful to the countries of the North, the United Nations and its agencies, as well as financial institutions, helping South-South cooperation to achieve its full potential.

25. Viet Nam was pleased to note that the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) had been growing steadily and that its programme had produced positive results. It deserved stronger support, as gender and the advancement of women's issues should receive a higher priority in the development agenda. UNIFEM should undertake comprehensive research with a view to finding and encouraging the use of successful models allowing women to generate

economic incomes from a seed fund lent by donors or UNIFEM which allowed them to benefit from the opportunities created by globalization. Viet Nam shared the concern that the annual United Nations Pledging Conference had not been able to mobilize sufficient regular resources, and considered it necessary to consider alternative options. The entire United Nations system should analyse the multi-year funding framework approach with a view to adopting it, because it had had some success in mobilizing funds for WFP, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF programmes. Viet Nam agreed that there should be a high-level event on funding for operational activities for development in the context of the General Assembly and in conjunction with the high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnerships.

26. **Mr. Kazemi-Kamyab** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the impact of United Nations operational activities for development must be enhanced by a substantial increase in their funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis and commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries. It could be argued that it was necessary to address the lack of political will on the part of the developed countries to commit themselves to development, rather than to try to invent reasons for abolishing annual pledging conferences. His delegation was prepared to consider any effective alternative which ensured an annual commitment to and overall support for funding operational activities for development.

27. Turning to the question of South-South cooperation, he said that the Tehran Consensus, adopted at the tenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, had lent support to the idea of launching an International Decade on South-South Cooperation and the designation of a United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation; his delegation requested the Secretary-General to establish a high-level expert group to consider those ideas prior to discussion by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. There had been an increasing pattern of cooperation among developing countries but their efforts needed to be assisted by the rest of the international community, whether it be the donor community or the United Nations system and its various components. South-South cooperation was important, but it could not replace North-South cooperation: the two were supposed to be complementary. The separate identity of the UNDP Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries needed to be maintained, and its programme adequately funded at a level commensurate with its mandate and system-wide responsibilities. The High-Level Committee on the Review of TCDC should in future review all aspects of South-South cooperation, and its name should be changed to the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation. Similarly, the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC should be renamed the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. The capacity of the Special Unit to perform its functions needed to be further strengthened. It was encouraging that a number of developed countries had displayed interest in the triangular approach to South-South cooperation as a way of helping developing countries to overcome the scarcity of resources. It was to be hoped that the UNDP Special Unit would intensify its efforts to mobilize additional financial resources and generate a broad-based partnership among developing countries.

28. **Mr. Savchuk** (Ukraine) said that, in order to ensure that the United Nations system was capable of adequately meeting new development challenges, further sustained efforts were required to coordinate the activities of United Nations funds and programmes, to harmonize and simplify their programming and operational procedures, to strengthen the Resident Coordinator System and to enhance the relationship between the United Nations development agencies and international financial entities, notably the Bretton Woods institutions. Increased attention should be given to the inter-agency aspects of operational activities. Although there had been clear improvements in some areas of development cooperation, there was still a shortfall of core funding which impaired further progress. Additional efforts were essential in order to secure predictable and long-term funding for United Nations operational activities for development.

29. It was his delegation's expectation that the Monterrey Consensus would help to reverse the downward trend of official development assistance. As for the alternative options to the annual United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, Ukraine believed that the introduction and refinement of multi-year funding frameworks would considerably enhance efforts to mobilize resources, and in that context careful consideration should be given to

mandating the Economic and Social Council to devote one session of the high-level meeting of the United Nations operational activities segment to substantive dialogue on funding. It was important for the process of mainstreaming the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and Common Country Assessment into national development strategies and policies to secure broader participation of all relevant United Nations funds and programmes, and full leadership and coordination by national governments at all stages. It was important that capacity-building was being addressed with clear benchmarks and indicators in all Common Country Assessments, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and country programmes. It was also crucial that opportunities for forging partnership relations with private sector and non-governmental organizations be utilized more fully. UNDP should continue to play a key role in promoting the activities of all United Nations agencies in Ukraine, especially with regard to the United Nations Chernobyl programme and the Crimea Integration and Development Programme. The Government of Ukraine had enjoyed fruitful cooperation with UNICEF, and was particularly pleased with the recent decision to elevate the UNICEF office in Kiev to the status of a country office.

30. **Ms. Whittemore** (United States of America) said that the quick and effective intervention of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in Afghanistan had brought home the value of the Fund to the lives of women. It worked with equal effectiveness in other parts of the world, enhanced by its partnership with many entities, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). She stressed that full participation of women in economic, political and social life was essential for realization of international development goals.

31. Turning to South-South cooperation, she regretted that technical cooperation among developing countries had achieved little and said that such efforts must be reviewed in the context of international development goals. Her delegation supported United Nations involvement in South-South cooperation to build capacity and develop national strategies to reduce poverty but did not believe that the Organization should be supporting developing countries in promoting bloc positions and a so-called South agenda in global negotiations. The era of North-South negotiations, which had in fact produced few gains for development, was a thing of the past.

32. Technical cooperation played an increasingly important role in the areas of governance and human rights. While agreeing that there could be no development without respect for human rights, she took some exception to the contention that certain biomedical and information technology advances could adversely affect the dignity and human rights of the individual and constitute obstacles to development. Without such advances, the chances of reaching the international development goals would in fact be zero.

33. Technical cooperation among developing countries would be most successful when no longer seen as separate from other forms of cooperation and capacity-building. Her Government's bilateral assistance programmes had long used expertise from developing countries in programmes that it financed in other developing countries and such technical cooperation was not considered to be materially different from other development activities. Some of the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/155, paras. 64-76) seemed likely to keep technical cooperation among developing countries as a marginal activity. However, United Nations agencies, including the UNDP Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, should be catalysts for South-South cooperation and developing countries themselves should take the lead in reviewing such activities. Rather than create another secretariat, the Special Unit should in fact be expanded. Noting that a fixed annual allocation for the Special Unit had just been approved, she said that decisions on other measures to strengthen South-South cooperation should wait until the situation was clearer.

34. With regard to the Pledging Conference, she found much merit in the suggestions made by the European Union and by Switzerland. Resource mobilization must be accompanied by a review of results and she urged all United Nations agencies to develop multi-year funding frameworks (MYFFs) or similar mechanisms. Her delegation remained sceptical of large ministerial or high-level meetings, which were costly and did not produce the desired results. For example, although the UNDP Ministerial Conference of September 2000 had been a positive event, the results had nevertheless been uneven.

35. **Mr. Lewis** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), associated himself with the statement by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He recalled that the CARICOM countries were highly susceptible to the vagaries of the international economic environment, a situation compounded by natural disasters and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Agencies such as UNDP played a pivotal role in helping them meet their economic and sustainable development objectives and, while they remained committed to results-based development, that approach must not be based on a one-size-fits-all philosophy but on the specific circumstances of each country.

36. At a time when CARICOM countries were facing their most daunting challenges, he regretted that UNDP assistance had been substantially reduced as a result of the decline in its core funding, seriously affecting poverty eradication, social programmes and the most vulnerable groups of society. He therefore expressed gratitude for UNDP efforts to support implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and looked forward to continued collaboration with UNDP in regional integration efforts based on best practices in the areas of sustainable development, preparation for the Barbados +10 conference, vulnerability, HIV/AIDS, capacity-building and disaster management.

37. He called for speedy implementation of the global development agenda. Adequate funding must be provided for such efforts, including through changes to the pledging system, which had not achieved timely implementation and tangible results. Although viewed as middle-income countries, many CARICOM members were major recipients of remittances from nationals working abroad; per capita income should not therefore be the principal criterion for determining a country's stage of development. They were also increasingly called upon to assist weaker economies in their subregion and he supported renewed emphasis on cooperation at all levels.

38. He welcomed the UNIFEM focus on gender and HIV/AIDS and its efforts in the Caribbean region and reiterated the CARICOM countries' commitment to children. Member States were participating in immunization programmes, promoting breast-feeding, and prioritizing quality education and the development of programmes and policies aimed at preventing the use of illicit drugs. With the second highest incidence of HIV/AIDS after sub-Saharan Africa, HIV/AIDS continued to be a priority and care for affected children and families was a major component of the regional prevention and management strategy.

39. **Mr. Gospodinov** (Observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)) called for the spirit of Monterrey to be given substance by States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The Federation was working to bring the Monterrey message to the attention of its National Societies. It was also accelerating work to enter into arrangements with other international organizations. For example, five National Societies in Southern Africa had entered into a partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) in September of that year to provide the basic necessities of life to 13 million people in that region threatened by the scourges of HIV/AIDS and starvation. Also of critical importance for vulnerable people worldwide was the arrangement under which the ProVention Consortium, established under the auspices of the World Bank, was currently housed at the Federation Secretariat in Geneva. The Federation hoped that its work with the World Bank would expand and that links with the consortia of other members, notably the regional development banks, would also be strengthened.

40. Some of the Federation's partnerships were aimed at provision of relief and included development in their programmes, while others were aimed at risk reduction, which had been the theme of the 2002 World Disasters Report. In his foreword to the report, the Secretary-General of the Federation had challenged Governments to add disaster risk reduction targets to existing international development targets. Risk reduction took many forms which were relevant to economic and social development. The Federation participated, for example, in the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and with other partners had been working to develop a Humanitarian Accountability Project based on the need to build national capacity and reinforce accountability.

41. Capacity-building was also a priority for the Federation, which was present in virtually every country in the world. Its National Societies worked to assist the vulnerable in their own as well as other countries and he welcomed the recent United Nations emphasis on partnership, including the Poverty

Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) approach. The Federation had long argued the value of partnerships based on strong national ownership and broad-based participation in policy design and monitoring. It had therefore welcomed the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and was currently exploring the best avenues for promoting national Red Cross and Red Crescent Society cooperation with the African Union in that context.

42. The connection between relief and development had too often been ignored and the effective partnerships must be created at all levels to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable communities, taking into account their needs and expectations in order to transform principles into action and concrete deeds. That was the spirit of Monterrey and would be reflected in the theme of the next International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent: "Protecting human dignity". The Federation would highlight the need to protect human dignity during the current session of the General Assembly and continue to stress that theme in its work worldwide. It would also undertake wide-ranging consultations which, when combined with its partnership arrangements, would give valuable substance to the Millennium development goals.

43. **Mr. Husain** (Observer for the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)) said the Conference had a considerable stake in South-South cooperation. Like the United Nations, its objective was to promote solidarity and cooperation among its 60 member and observer States. All its member States were in fact from the South. Four member States of the Conference, Egypt, Tunisia, Indonesia and Turkey, were net providers of technical assistance in their various regions, indicating the importance which the Conference attached to South-South cooperation.

44. The strategic objectives of collective self-reliance and increased participation in the world economy had not been realized by most developing countries and he stressed the importance of preventing and ending armed conflicts within and among developing countries. The Conference had both positive and negative experiences to share in conflict resolution and peace-building in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Philippines, Somalia, Tajikistan and elsewhere.

45. He supported the recommendations for action contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/155, paras. 64-76) but believed two were of particular significance. He would welcome the creation of a high-level group of experts (para. 64) to align the South-South cooperation agenda with the Millennium development goals and strengthen the South countries' capacity to pursue development goals; the group should have as wide a geographical representation as possible in order to take into account the different ethnic and cultural communities in the South. He would also welcome collaboration between UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (para. 66) to include peace education in school curricula but suggested that other stakeholders such as the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) should be included in those efforts.

46. **Ms. Nanda** (United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)) thanked members for their comments and advice. She also welcomed in particular the concerns expressed about UNIFEM's lack of resources and noted with appreciation the 8 per cent increase in its core resources. Adequate funding was essential for effective programming as the Fund endeavoured to implement the Millennium development goals, reduce the effects of HIV/AIDS and highlight the contribution of women to peace and security. It would help the fund continue its cooperation with national partners to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and to strengthen programme priorities identified, in particular in programme countries.

*The meeting rose at 5 p.m.*

United Nations A/C.2/57/SR.20

# General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session

Official Records

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29 November 2002

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## Second Committee

**Summary record of the 20th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 30 October 2002, at 3 p.m.

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| *Chairman*: | Mr. Suazo | (Honduras) |
| *later*: | Mr. van der Pluijm (Vice-Chairman) | (Belgium) |
| *later*: | Mr. Suazo | (Honduras) |

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Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development: (*continued*)

(b) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*)

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(e) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*)

(f) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*)

Agenda item 89: Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

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02-66828 (E)

*The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.*

**Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development** (*continued*)

**(b) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction** (*continued*)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.16*

1. **Mr. Nino Gómez** (Venezuela) introduced the draft resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon" on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Noting that the text of the draft itself was not new, he highlighted paragraph 2 and said that the El Niño phenomenon had caused a series of natural disasters in a number of the countries members of the Group of 77 and China.

*Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.21*

2. **Mr. Nino Gómez** (Venezuela) introduced the draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, highlighting the eighth and tenth preambular paragraphs. In the tenth preambular paragraph, "paragraph 37" should read "paragraph 35".

*Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.22*

3. **Mr. Nino Gómez** (Venezuela) introduced the draft resolution entitled "Natural disasters and vulnerability" on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Noting that it was a new draft, he drew attention in particular to paragraphs 1 and 3 and said that, in paragraph 1, "paragraph 37" should be replaced by "paragraph 35".

**(d) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa** (*continued*)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.17*

4. **Mr. Nino Gómez** (Venezuela) introduced the draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa" on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He drew attention to the third, fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs as well as to paragraphs 3 and 4.

**(e) Convention on Biological Diversity** (*continued*)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.18*

5. **Mr. Nino Gómez** (Venezuela) introduced the draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Noting that, like the other draft resolutions, it also referred to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, he drew attention to paragraphs 4, 7 and 8.

**(f) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States** (*continued*)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.19*

6. **Mr. Nino Gómez** (Venezuela) introduced the draft resolution entitled "Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development" on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. In the fourteenth preambular paragraph, the words "on climate and disasters" should be inserted between the words "group" and "established". He drew particular attention to paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4.

*Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.20*

7. **Mr. Nino Gómez** (Venezuela) introduced the draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Among other things, the draft suggested the convening of an international meeting in 2004 to review the Barbados Programme of Action. Owing to the importance of the proposed meeting to small island developing States, the draft suggested that the meeting should include a summit segment.

*Announcement concerning sponsorship of draft resolutions*

8. **The Chairman** announced new sponsors of draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 84 (c). Afghanistan had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.7; Burkina Faso, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Tajikistan and Swaziland had become

sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.11; and the Republic of Moldova and the United States of America had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.14.

**Agenda item 89: Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)** (A/57/137 and A/57/211)

9. **Mr. Schölvinck** (Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (A/57/137), said that there had been uneven progress in reducing poverty. Some countries were on track to meet the Millennium Goal of halving the number of people living on less than $1 a day by 2015, while most lagged behind in the face of serious economic, social and political obstacles. The report noted that many of those obstacles to successful poverty eradication could be overcome by the judicious adaptation and application of best practices and lessons learned in eradicating poverty around the world. However, it might be necessary to establish a comprehensive and easily accessible database of information on those best practices and lessons learned, which should be shared widely within the international community.

10. The report also highlighted the improving outlook for a reversal of past trends in official development assistance (ODA). Indeed, an increasing share of ODA was going to basic social services and a growing number of countries were benefiting from the relief provided by the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt (HIPC) Initiative. However, there was a need to close the gap in financial resources required for countries to attain the millennium development goals. More needed to be accomplished, and soon, otherwise the lesson learned by 2015 might be that, owing to a lack of international cooperation, the goals could not be met.

11. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the proposal to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication (A/57/137), he noted that the Johannesburg Summit had given a clear endorsement to the establishment of the fund. The fund would, inter alia, provide additional assistance to halve extreme poverty worldwide by 2015; finance measures to raise living standards in impoverished communities; operate as a trust fund managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that would not duplicate existing operational programmes; and receive voluntary contributions in cash and in kind from individuals, foundations, organizations and the private sector. It would not divert the flow of funding allocated to ODA. A world solidarity fund could go some way towards bridging the resources gap that presented a major impediment to the achievement of the millennium development goals.

12. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was very difficult for some countries to achieve even minimum standards of living. The Group of 77 and China shared the concern of the Secretary-General that, while best practices could lead to innovative solutions to problems, they might not apply equally well to all situations and might need to be adapted to suit the social, economic, cultural and historical conditions in specific countries.

13. The Group of 77 and China also welcomed the establishment of the world solidarity fund for poverty eradication and the encouragement of the private sector and citizens to work with Governments to fund poverty eradication efforts. With specific reference to the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of the fund (A/57/137), he said the United Nations had entered a new phase and had been called upon to take immediate measures to eradicate poverty.

14. He welcomed the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) designed to overcome the barriers to development through the combined efforts of the countries of the region, the United Nations system and other interested parties.

15. All stakeholders should seek new mechanisms for poverty eradication and implement those yet to be realized. He appealed to the developed countries to fulfil their obligations, including those undertaken with respect to ODA, to provide new and adequate financial flows, to strengthen technical and financial cooperation, and to establish best practices with developing countries through effective channels of interaction allowing greater access for products of the developing countries to global markets. Although the countries of the Group of 77 and China had the largest concentration of people living in extreme poverty, they were also endowed with vast supplies of natural resources. It was therefore time to address that paradox and to work towards a more just and equitable world.

16. **Ms. Løj** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey, said that the report of the Secretary-General highlighted the enormous challenges to be faced in order to fulfil the commitments of the millennium development goals with respect to poverty eradication. The report also stressed the need for urgent action and underscored the role of best practices and lessons learned in the fight against poverty.

17. The United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/57/270) had established clear time-bound targets, and an overall framework for concerted action. In conjunction with the outcomes of the international conferences of the previous decade, the commitment to poverty eradication as an overarching goal was incontestable. She paid a tribute to the African leaders who had taken an impressive lead in devising the NEPAD initiative and urged developed countries to honour their commitments to increase ODA, improve effectiveness, and support a stronger voice for developing countries in international economic and financial decision-making processes. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the imperative of partnership and implementation had also been emphasized. The implementation of the outcomes of the conferences was part of a wider process aimed at fulfilling the commitments of the Millennium Declaration and achieving the millennium development goals.

18. The European Union had pledged to increase its collective ODA, to ensure implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt (HIPC) Initiative and to improve market access, creating new export opportunities for developing countries. As stated in the report of the Secretary-General, although economic growth was undoubtedly a driving factor in poverty reduction, income growth on its own was insufficient to ensure that poverty eradication targets could be met, and pro-poor growth was needed.

19. Good governance demanded the building and strengthening of democratic institutions, respect for and promotion of human rights and the rule of law, and effective and just delivery of public services. Furthermore, the primary responsibility rested with each individual country, working to create a sound macroeconomic environment and an appropriate framework for investment and trade that was supportive of sustainable development. All countries must prioritize investment in health, education, nutrition, water, sanitation and environmental sustainability. Domestic policies in the area of taxation, income redistribution, decent work rights, the fight against corruption and peace-building were also fundamental.

20. At the same time, the European Union recognized that without international assistance many of the least developed countries (LDCs) could not escape the vicious circle of poverty. With regard to enhanced aid effectiveness, she noted the proposal of the Secretary-General on strengthening the Organization in order to clarify the comparative advantages of United Nations entities in the provision of technical assistance. Further cooperation, coordination and harmonization of efforts at all levels were required, and donors must make greater efforts to support national development strategies. The European Union was pleased to note that an increasing number of developing countries had elaborated comprehensive poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) which provided useful frameworks for donor coordination.

21. The European Union wished to acknowledge the importance of developing and disseminating information on best practices and lessons learned, as outlined by the Secretary-General in his report, and supported his conclusion that participatory policy-making, gender sensitivity, community development, a strong civil society and integrated environmental management were essential.

22. **Mr. Kolby** (Norway) said that, with the downturn of the world economy which had characterized the period following the events of 11 September 2001, the outlook for the attainment of the millennium development goals was bleak. Regrettably, prospects had not significantly improved since then and progress had been slow and uneven. However, the outcomes of two major United Nations conferences had provided good reason for cautious optimism. The International Conference on Financing for Development had resulted in agreement on the main obstacles to development and poverty reduction, and in pledges from some donor countries to increase ODA. Real progress towards poverty eradication would be made only when all donors accepted the concept of reaching the 0.7 per cent target within a clear time frame. The results of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable

Development had confirmed unilateral pledges made at the International Conference as well as the targets of the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty and the millennium development goals. The focus on Africa in many recent initiatives and the support of the international community for NEPAD gave additional reason for optimism in the continued struggle to eradicate poverty in that continent.

23. Discussions on the world solidarity fund, operating as a trust fund managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), had entered a productive phase. In the hope that the solidarity fund would prove to be a useful mechanism and would supplement the efforts of other important United Nations bodies to combat poverty, Norway expressed its support for the establishment of the solidarity fund in accordance with the recommendations of UNDP.

24. *Mr. van der Pluijm (Belgium), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

25. **Mr. Zhang** Yishan (China) said that prolonged poverty and underdevelopment caused many serious international problems, including armed conflict, social upheaval and humanitarian crises. The international community, therefore, had a long way to go in achieving its objective of poverty eradication, which ultimately depended on development. Developing countries should tailor their mode of development to their specific circumstances, with the support of the international community.

26. Firm action should be taken to provide adequate financial resources for poverty reduction. He joined previous speakers in urging donors to increase ODA and to honour their commitments regarding foreign direct investment, market access, technology transfer and debt relief. In their efforts to fight poverty, developing countries needed not only assistance, but also trade and investment.

27. Ownership in the execution of country programmes was important to developing countries, and should be strengthened. On the basis of lessons learned, agencies and institutions had expressed willingness to enhance ownership in the work of poverty reduction. However, many developing countries were still forced to accept terms and conditions that were not in line with their national situations, in exchange for aid from the developed countries, seriously impeding their efforts to choose the right path to development.

28. As the most populous country in the world, China's economic development efforts would have great impact on global development. The Government remained committed to such development and to raising living standards. Over the previous two years of reform, China had achieved stable and rapid economic growth, which had led to social development. The number of people living in extreme poverty had been reduced from 250 million in 1979 to the current level of 30 million, and the proportion of the rural population living in extreme poverty had also fallen from 30.7 per cent to 3 per cent. Those achievements were mainly attributable to the fact that China had followed a path to development which was compatible with its own conditions, incorporating poverty reduction into the national plan of economic and social development.

29. In spite of the progress already achieved, China was still a developing country with a low income per capita. It would continue its efforts and strengthen cooperation with other countries and international organizations in order to promote the realization of poverty eradication.

30. **Mr. Reddy** (India) recalled that, in recognition of widening disparities, and cognizant of the shared responsibility posed by poverty eradication, leaders attending the Millennium Summit had agreed to work towards freeing humanity from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty and to ensure that everyone could enjoy the right to development. Concerted action, specifically targeted at improving well-being, would be required at all levels in order to achieve the collective goal of poverty eradication.

31. In Asia, the largest number of the world's poor, approximately 500 million, subsisted on less than one dollar a day. India had evolved a national strategy complementing the acceleration of economic growth, focusing on the provision of basic services for improving the quality of life for the poorest segments of society through specific programmes. It had been successful in reducing poverty from 38.9 per cent in 1987 to 23 per cent in 2000, and hoped to further reduce poverty to a level of 10 per cent by 2012.

32. Developing countries needed the support of the international community if they were to succeed in

eradicating poverty, and there was clearly a need to reverse the trend of declining ODA. Funds that had been pledged should be made available, and further funding commitments should be made so as to reach the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. There should also be a fair, equitable and non-discriminatory trading system that would address the concerns of developing countries and ensure enhanced and predictable market access for their exports so that they could take advantage of trade liberalization. Furthermore, stability in the international financial and monetary systems was necessary if the developing countries were to eradicate poverty. The sole criterion by which India would judge the success of the Millennium Development Goals Campaign, the initiation of which it welcomed, would be the extent to which it resulted in enhanced funds for development. India hoped that at its current session the General Assembly would finalize the modalities for the establishment of a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication, and called on the international community to contribute generously to such a fund, which could be operated by UNDP. The fund should support requests from national Governments for financing community-based projects. It was time to move into an implementation phase if the Millennium Development Goals were to be achieved; based on the record of the past two years, those goals were still far from being achieved.

33. **Mr. Hassan** (Pakistan) said that the existence of widespread poverty in the midst of global prosperity was undeniably the most serious challenge confronting the world. Poverty had been viewed in the context of income poverty alone, but it was a multi-dimensional phenomenon requiring a broad-based approach. In spite of the solemn pledges made at a series of major conferences and summits, poverty had continued to grow, and the social and economic gap between the haves and have-nots was widening. It was necessary to focus on practical action, rather than rhetoric, in attacking the problem. People needed to be placed at the centre of development, and all stakeholders needed to take coherent, collaborative action. While primary responsibility lay with the developing countries themselves, the developed countries needed to share the responsibility, since they largely controlled international finance, technology and trade, and set the rules of the game. Poverty needed to be attacked from all directions, but preferably through the development of human resources, chiefly by promoting education and health. If developing countries enjoyed an environment in which their people could develop their full potential and lead productive and creative lives in accordance with their means and interests, they could effectively deal with the challenges of poverty, illiteracy, hunger, malnutrition and disease. The deadly combination of extreme poverty and extreme indebtedness had plunged a large number of low-income countries into a downward spiral: debt relief should be an integral part of any comprehensive concept of poverty eradication, and would go a long way towards helping countries which were trying to help themselves through financing credible, home-grown reform programmes. Trade was another area which could boost economic growth, generate employment and reduce poverty; it was also the single most important external source for financing development. Increased market access was an effective way for developing countries to achieve sustainability. Official development assistance also played a critical role in meeting development needs, and there was a clear need for it to be increased. Pakistan hoped that the Committee would finalize the modalities for the world solidarity fund for poverty eradication, and that all countries in a position to do so would contribute generously to it.

34. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) said that most developing countries were continuing to direct their resources towards the eradication of poverty, even as they faced an economic downturn, but they were constrained in their efforts. As the Secretary-General had mentioned in his report, it was unlikely that at the current rate of progress most of the millennium development goals would be reached by 2015 in a number of regions. To deal with that situation, he had once again urged the international community to mobilize all its efforts. Those efforts had to consist of augmented ODA, increased trade access, deeper and more rapid debt relief, and the channelling of more productive investments. While the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/211) had noted a number of innovative "best practices" in Bangladesh, such as the Grameen Bank's microfinance and the female schooling support programme, it did not explain how such micro-activities could be linked with macro-efforts, and their successful elements factored into broad policy discussions in the context of the General Assembly, international bodies, agencies and institutions. The challenge lay in deciding how such "best practices" could be scaled up or replicated in other countries.

35. The world solidarity fund for poverty eradication was aimed at sustaining and supporting indigenous endeavours to eradicate poverty globally, particularly at grass-roots level. Most such flexible, indigenous efforts were small in scale, but contributed a good deal in terms of social and human development across the developing world. It was important to monitor the adequacy of the resources for the world solidarity fund, because it would be based on voluntary contributions with funding from Member States, foundations and the private sector. Mobilization would therefore be the critical factor in its success.

36. *Mr. Suazo (Honduras) resumed the Chair.*

37. **Archbishop Martino** (Observer for the Holy See) said that, although progress was being made towards achieving the millennium target of halving world poverty by 2015, too many people continued to live without access to basic requirements, and without hope. The effects which that lack of access had on people's physical, emotional and spiritual well-being should be the focus of discussions on poverty eradication.

38. His delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/211), but could not agree with its statement (para. 22) that social obstacles could also be powerful impediments to economic development and poverty eradication, some of the most significant among them being population growth and a lack of access to education and health care. Many factors other than population growth played a role, notably natural disasters, armed conflict, or the oppression which caused the movement and displacement of persons, separation from homes and families and the disruption of lives. His delegation considered that the statement was not only untrue but also harmful to those struggling to overcome the burdens of poverty and the vulnerability that came with it. Even if the world experienced zero population growth over the next 13 years, the goals and targets set at the Millennium Summit would not be met. The elimination of poverty required great effort and political will. The Holy See would continue to call for justice and recognition of human dignity, which would lead to the eradication of poverty. It was the hope of the Holy See that the dialogue would continue, and that words would be put into action. Those living in extreme poverty could not wait until 2015 simply to be told that the goals set in 2000 had unfortunately not been met. Instead, the world community should promise to free all people from extreme poverty, which the Pope had described as the most pervasive and paralysing form of violation of human rights in the world.

39. **Mr. Malanda** (Congo) said that the eradication of hunger and poverty was one of the major challenges facing the international community, which had the capacity to find appropriate solutions. There had been a number of major international conferences in the two years since the Millennium Declaration had set the target of halving world poverty by 2015, and it was now necessary to move on to specific measures to reduce or cancel the heavy debt burden borne by the poor countries of the world, to guarantee their products access to the markets of the developed countries, and to increase ODA. Only by radical solutions could the poor countries secure the necessary resources for economic growth. Some 70 per cent of his compatriots lived below the poverty threshold on less than one dollar a day, while according to the latest IMF figures his country's external debt had risen to US$ 5 billion. The Government of the Congo had put the struggle against poverty at the centre of its development policy, establishing a national committee under the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Budget to tackle it. It had also been engaged in preliminary discussions with the World Bank with a view to agreeing on a strategic framework for poverty reduction. Once approved, that framework would enable the Congo to benefit from the HIPC initiative. Poverty eradication was primarily a matter for the States concerned, but it was vital for national policies to enjoy sustained support from all development partners.

40. His delegation would fully cooperate with the Committee in its efforts to make the world solidarity fund for poverty eradication operational. It also called for the adoption of courageous resolutions to provide substantial support to NEPAD, to cancel the debt of all HIPC countries and to increase ODA.

41. **Mr. Kommasith** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that, in a globalized world, poverty and underdevelopment were no longer problems exclusively of developing countries. Their consequences had spread, and not a single country in the world was immune to their effects. Progress in the past two years towards the target of halving world poverty by 2015 had been slow and uneven, and according to a number of estimates the target was unlikely to be met. The reasons for such slow progress — insufficient and inefficient public

spending, the heavy debt burden, inadequate access to the markets of developed countries and insufficient ODA — had to be addressed immediately. While national ownership and the primary responsibility for development lay with national governments, only a handful of them had any chance of succeeding without genuine international cooperation. In the past two years, many new commitments had been made and many old pledges reiterated, which should be honoured and fully implemented. His own country was committed to poverty eradication and sustainable development and had set itself the goal of shedding its least developed country status by 2020 by means of a national poverty eradication programme. His delegation joined others in urging all development partners to honour their commitment to increase ODA to the agreed level of 0.7 per cent of GNP, and fully supported the establishment of a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication.

42. **Mr. Kogda** (Burkina Faso) said that his delegation welcomed the proposal to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication. If donor countries had kept their often-repeated commitment to earmark 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA, the world would not be struggling with the scourge of poverty. He agreed with the Secretary-General's proposal to have the fund managed through the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

43. **Mr. Ragab** (Egypt) associated himself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and emphasized the need for swift implementation of the recommendations of United Nations development-related conferences, particularly in relation to ODA, with a view to attaining the goals set for poverty eradication. The international community should lend its support to national institutions which offered financing and other services to small projects, in which connection it should also encourage the major financial institutions to provide access to capital. It was similarly important to focus on education as a means of increasing capacities at the international, regional and national levels with the aim of building human resources in the developing countries in the interests of ongoing development. Moreover, the necessary funding should be provided for channelling into the rural communities inhabited by the majority in the developing world. The same applied to assistance for the improvement of services and health and environmental infrastructures in the developing countries, particularly in Africa, with a view to sustainable development and optimal use of natural resources. It was also essential to implement global policies and initiatives aimed at ensuring the flow of information, technology and research, which were essential for planning the international strategy for capacity-building in the developing countries. Furthermore, national poverty-eradication efforts which had borne fruit should be emulated elsewhere, with care to avoid duplication. In short, the time had come for decisive action to tackle poverty and its causes, including the ignorance to which it was closely linked, failing which both security and the environment would further deteriorate to the detriment of all.

44. **Mr. Tin** (Myanmar) said that his delegation wished to align itself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Despite the progress made over the past 20 years in reducing poverty worldwide, much remained to be done, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. The successful implementation of NEPAD could contribute greatly to reducing poverty in Africa. His delegation welcomed the announcement by the G-8 countries at their meeting in Canada regarding their readiness to provide much-needed assistance to Africa. He was also heartened by the recent commitments made by the United States and the European Union at the International Conference on Financing for Development to increase their development assistance. Debt relief to heavily indebted countries initiated by the World Bank was also instrumental in the reduction of poverty.

45. The Government of Myanmar attached great importance to poverty eradication and rural development. It had promoted rural development by various means, including road construction, health and education services and a 10-year rural water supply project. Another notable project with a significant impact on poverty eradication was the one entitled "Progress of Border Areas and National Races", which was aimed at improving living conditions of people residing in the remote border areas and reducing illicit drug production and trafficking by providing an alternative livelihood for the local population. The water project and the border area project had benefited from the participation of United Nations agencies such as UNDP and UNDCP.

46. **Mr. Kyazze** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that UNESCO had a long-term strategy for the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty. In the Organization's medium-term strategy for 2002-2007, poverty was a cross-cutting theme and a priority. Accordingly, UNESCO was focusing on advocacy and information, assistance to member States for policy formulation and implementation, policy-oriented research, capacity-building, and innovative field projects.

47. Education and poverty eradication were inextricably linked, and investment in education was one of the most important determinants of human welfare. Moreover, the lack of appropriate educational opportunities for girls and women had a bearing on the feminization of poverty. Access to basic education for all and equality of educational opportunities were therefore vital for reducing the inequalities between and within societies. As stated in the World Declaration on Education for All, education was required by human beings to be able to survive and develop their full capacities. Moreover, as recognized in paragraph 6 of the Dakar Framework for Action, Education for All (EFA) was a human right. It had been further recognized that Literacy for All was at the heart of basic Education for All. Literacy was critical for quality of life improvement. The forthcoming United Nations Literacy Decade, in which UNESCO would play the leading role, should therefore not be seen as an isolated or parallel initiative, but as an integral part of EFA.

48. To reduce the vulnerability and the insecurity of those living in poverty and to bring lasting improvements in their lives, it was important to ensure that they not only benefited from investment in education, health or other basic requirements, but that they were also able to secure a sustainable livelihood. In order to be effective, poverty-eradication strategies must also address the broader issues related to the people's livelihood, with due regard for the local cultural context.

49. In paragraph 8 (ii) of the Dakar Framework for Action, governments, organizations, agencies, groups and associations represented at the World Education Forum had pledged to promote EFA policies within a sustainable and well-integrated sector framework clearly linked to poverty elimination and development strategies. UNESCO, in close cooperation with member States, the United Nations system, the World Bank and relevant NGOs, intended to be an increasingly major player in the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.

50. **Ms. Lewis** (International Labour Organization) said that the international community could no longer ignore the links between human security and poverty. Productive employment was one of the major routes out of poverty. The promotion of productive employment was at the heart of her Organization's decent work agenda and encapsulated its contribution to the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. Past prescriptions for economic growth which had not taken into account the need for employment creation had exacerbated human insecurity. The ILO World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization was working to promote globalization as a means of reducing poverty and unemployment.

51. With the majority of poor people engaged in small or own-account enterprises in developing countries, ILO was making major efforts to eradicate poverty through its InFocus Programme on Boosting Employment Through Small Enterprise Development (IFP/SEED). The Organization was also trying to improve the situation of workers in the areas of microinsurance, HIV/AIDS, youth employment, equal opportunities for women, small enterprise start-up and placing employment at the centre of macroeconomic policy.

52. On the inter-agency front, ILO and UNDP had set up a joint task force to develop a programme on employment and poverty which involved collaborative research as well as cooperation at the national and international levels. The International Labour Organization and the World Bank were collaborating closely on the inclusion of a work component in poverty-reduction strategies.

53. While employment was essential for reducing poverty, the work available must not be exploitative, and a rights-based approach to poverty eradication remained crucial. Her Organization was concerned with monitoring the ratification and implementation of Conventions to protect the rights of people in the workplace. It was also concentrating its efforts on the four areas of the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work: child labour, forced labour, discrimination and freedom of association.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*